

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Paul D. Wellstone Muscular Dystrophy Community Assistance, Research, and Education Amendments of 2008”.

SEC. 2. EXPANSION, INTENSIFICATION, AND COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES OF NIH WITH RESPECT TO RESEARCH ON MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY.

(a) **TECHNICAL CORRECTION.**—Section 404E of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 283g) is amended by striking subsection (f) (relating to reports to Congress) and redesignating subsection (g) as subsection (f).

(b) **AMENDMENTS.**—Section 404E of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 283g) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by inserting “the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute,” after “the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development,”;

(2) in subsection (b)(1), by adding at the end of the following: “Such centers of excellence shall be known as the ‘Paul D. Wellstone Muscular Dystrophy Cooperative Research Centers.’”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(g) **CLINICAL RESEARCH.**—The Coordinating Committee may evaluate the potential need to enhance the clinical research infrastructure required to test emerging therapies for the various forms of muscular dystrophy by prioritizing the achievement of the goals related to this topic in the plan under subsection (e)(1).”.

SEC. 3. DEVELOPMENT AND EXPANSION OF ACTIVITIES OF CDC WITH RESPECT TO EPIDEMIOLOGICAL RESEARCH ON MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY.

Section 317Q of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247b–18) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (f); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (c) the following:

“(d) **DATA.**—In carrying out this section, the Secretary may ensure that any data on patients that is collected as part of the Muscular Dystrophy STARnet (under a grant under this section) is regularly updated to reflect changes in patient condition over time.

“(e) **REPORTS AND STUDY.**—

“(1) **ANNUAL REPORT.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of the Paul D. Wellstone Muscular Dystrophy Community Assistance, Research, and Education Amendments of 2008, and annually thereafter, the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shall submit to the appropriate committees of the Congress a report—

“(A) concerning the activities carried out by MD STARnet site funded under this section during the year for which the report is prepared;

“(B) containing the data collected and findings derived from the MD STARnet sites each fiscal year (as funded under a grant under this section during fiscal years 2008 through 2012); and

“(C) that every 2 years outlines prospective data collection objectives and strategies.

“(2) **TRACKING HEALTH OUTCOMES.**—The Secretary may provide health outcome data on the health and survival of people with muscular dystrophy.”.

SEC. 4. INFORMATION AND EDUCATION.

Section 5 of the Muscular Dystrophy Community Assistance, Research and Education Amendments of 2001 (42 U.S.C. 247b–19) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

“(c) **REQUIREMENTS.**—In carrying out this section, the Secretary may—

“(1) partner with leaders in the muscular dystrophy patient community;

“(2) cooperate with professional organizations and the patient community in the development

and issuance of care considerations for Duchenne-Becker muscular dystrophy, and other forms of muscular dystrophy, and in periodic review and updates, as appropriate; and

“(3) widely disseminate the Duchenne-Becker muscular dystrophy and other forms of muscular dystrophy care considerations as broadly as possible, including through partnership opportunities with the muscular dystrophy patient community.”.

The motion was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

AMERICAN PHARMACISTS MONTH

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Commerce be discharged from further consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 1437) expressing support for designation of the month of October as “American Pharmacists Month” and expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that all people in the United States should join in celebrating our Nation’s pharmacists for their contributions to the health and well-being of our citizens, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1437

Whereas the United States is recognized globally as a hub of medical research and advances, where many diseases once correctly considered fatal now can be treated through sophisticated medical interventions including powerful medications;

Whereas we are at an unprecedented period in our history, a period when medication therapy is the treatment of choice for an ever-growing range of medical conditions, and the use of medication as a cost-effective alternative to more expensive medical procedures is becoming a major force in moderating overall health care costs;

Whereas many chronic health conditions can be managed so that individuals are able to lead more vital, productive, and satisfying lives;

Whereas with the complexity of medication therapy, it is critically important that all users of prescription and nonprescription medications, or their caregivers, be knowledgeable about and share responsibility for their own medication therapy;

Whereas more individuals are using powerful prescription medications and over-the-counter (OTC) products along with dietary supplements, herbals, and other products requiring patients to have a partner on their health care team to help navigate the complexities of using medications safely and effectively;

Whereas pharmacists, the medication experts on the health care team, are working

collaboratively with patients, caregivers, and other health professionals to improve medication use and advance patient care in a myriad of settings;

Whereas pharmacists are improving health care in community pharmacies, hospitals and health systems, nursing homes and hospice centers, health plans, and in patient’s own homes, as well as in the uniformed services, the government, and in research and academic settings;

Whereas while many people in the United States are concerned about the costs of their medications, the most expensive medication is the one that does not work as intended or is taken incorrectly, and billions of health care dollars are lost each year due to ineffective use of medications;

Whereas pharmacy is one of the oldest of the health professions concerned with the health and well-being of all people, and today, there are more than 254,000 licensed pharmacists in the United States providing services to assure the rational and safe use of all medications; and

Whereas as medication therapy management improves the health outcomes of millions of people in the United States each year, the role of the pharmacist only strengthens in importance, and by consulting with physicians and other prescribers, providing proper medications, and helping patients understand their medications, pharmacists improve our health care system and save lives: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the designation of “American Pharmacists Month” with the theme “Know Your Medicine/Know Your Pharmacist”, encouraging people in the United States to identify a pharmacist as their own, to introduce themselves to that pharmacist, and to open a dialogue by asking questions;

(2) urges all citizens to celebrate America’s pharmacists for their contributions to the health and well-being of our citizens and hereby support the designation of “American Pharmacists Month”; and

(3) urges all citizens to acknowledge the valuable contributions made by pharmacists in providing safe, affordable, and beneficial medication therapy management services and products to the people of this Nation.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

MERCURY EXPORT BAN ACT OF 2008

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 906) to prohibit the sale, distribution, transfer, and export of elemental mercury, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The text of the Senate bill is as follows: